

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1. (Previously Presented) A heat shield for a vehicle having an exhaust system member extending from an exhaust port of an internal combustion engine, the heat shield comprising:

a first heat shield plate for surrounding a curved section of the exhaust system member, the curved section being provided in the vicinity of the exhaust port;

a second heat shield plate for covering above a straight section of the exhaust system member, the straight section connecting to the curved section; and

a band member for supporting the first heat shield plate on the exhaust system member,

wherein a small diameter section is provided on an end section of the first heat shield plate, and a front end section of the second heat shield plate overlaps the small diameter section along a length of the exhaust system member, with a gap being provided in a radial direction between the small diameter section of the first heat shield plate and the front end section of the second heat shield plate,

wherein the gap provides an opening facing toward a front side of the vehicle so that travel wind from the front side of the vehicle passes through the gap between the first and second heat shield plates.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 1, wherein the exhaust system member is a U-shaped exhaust pipe which extends forwardly from the exhaust port of the engine, curves rearwardly, and extends in a substantially straight manner along one side of the engine to a position where the U-shaped exhaust pipe joins a middle pipe.

4. (Original) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 3, wherein the U-shaped exhaust pipe is formed as a one-part pipe.

5. (Previously Presented) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 1, wherein the first heat shield plate includes an upper plate and a lower plate which mate together to surround an entire outer circumference of the curved section of the exhaust system member.

6. (Original) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 5, wherein the upper plate and the lower plate are joined by the band member.

7. (Original) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 1, wherein an end of the first heat shield plate adjacent to the exhaust port of the engine includes projection sections, and the band member presses the projection sections

against the exhaust system member to attach the first heat shield plate to the exhaust system member.

8. (Previously Presented) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 1, wherein the end section of the first heat shield plate away from the exhaust port is fixed tightly around the exhaust system member by the band member, and the front end section of the second heat shield plate extends forwardly over the band member, the front end section of the second heat shield member being fixed to the exhaust system member by an attachment fixture including a bolt, the attachment fixture providing a space between the second heat shield plate and the exhaust system member through which air passes during travel.

9. (Original) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 1, wherein the small diameter section of the first heat shield plate includes projections fitting into indented sections of the exhaust system member.

10. (Original) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 1, wherein an intermediate portion of the first heat shield plate has a diameter larger than a diameter of the exhaust system member, and the band member wraps around the intermediate portion of the first heat shield plate.

11. (Currently Amended) A heat shield for an exhaust system member extending from an exhaust port of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

a first heat shield plate for surrounding substantially all of a curved section of the exhaust system member, the curved section of the exhaust system member extending from the exhaust port;

a second heat shield plate mounted over a straight section of the exhaust system member, the straight section connecting to the curved section; and

a band member for supporting the first heat shield plate on the exhaust system member,

wherein the first heat shield plate is formed as a single plate extending along at least half way along the curved section of the exhaust system member,

wherein a rear end section of the first heat shield plate is in direct contact with the exhaust member and a front end section of the second heat shield plate is separated from the exhaust system, thereby forming a gap between the rear end section of the first heat shield plate and the front end section of the second heat shield plate,

wherein the gap provides an opening facing toward a front side of the vehicle so that travel wind from the front side of the vehicle passes through a gap between the first and second heat shield plates,

wherein a small diameter section is provided on the rear end section of the first heat shield plate, and the front end section of the second heat shield plate overlaps the small diameter section along a length of the exhaust system member, with the gap in a radial direction being provided between the small diameter section of the rear end section of the first heat shield plate and the front end section of the second heat shield plate.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 11, wherein the exhaust system member is a U-shaped exhaust pipe which extends forwardly from the exhaust port of the engine, curves rearwardly, and extends in a substantially straight manner along one side of the engine to a position where the U-shaped exhaust pipe joins a middle pipe.

14. (Original) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 13, wherein the U-shaped exhaust pipe is formed as a one-part pipe.

15. (Previously Presented) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 11, wherein the first heat shield plate includes an upper plate and a lower plate each having flanges on inner and outer edges thereof, the flanges of the upper plate

mating with the flanges of the lower plate, so that the upper plate and the lower plate surround the exhaust system member.

16. (Previously Presented) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 15, wherein the upper plate and the lower plate are joined by the band member and surround an entire outer circumference of the curved section of the exhaust system member.

17. (Original) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 11, wherein an end of the first heat shield plate adjacent to the exhaust port of the engine includes projection sections, and the band member presses the projection sections against the exhaust system member to attach the first heat shield plate to the exhaust system member.

18. (Previously Presented) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 11, wherein the rear end section of the first heat shield plate away from the exhaust port is fixed tightly around the exhaust system member by the band member, and the front end section of the second heat shield plate extends forwardly over the band member, the front end section of the second heat shield member being fixed to the exhaust system member by an attachment fixture including a bolt, the attachment fixture providing a space

between the second heat shield plate and the exhaust system member through which air passes during travel.

19. (Currently Amended) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of ~~claim 12~~ claim 11, wherein the small diameter section of the first heat shield plate includes projections fitting into indented sections of the exhaust system member.

20. (Original) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 11, wherein an intermediate portion of the first heat shield plate has a diameter larger than a diameter of the exhaust system member, and the band member wraps around the intermediate portion of the first heat shield plate.

21. (Previously Presented) A heat shield for a vehicle having an exhaust system member extending from an exhaust port of an internal combustion engine, the heat shield comprising:

a first heat shield plate for surrounding a curved section of the exhaust system member, the curved section being provided in the vicinity of the exhaust port;

a second heat shield plate for covering above a straight section of the exhaust system member, the straight section connecting to the curved section; and

a band member for supporting the first heat shield plate on the exhaust system member,

wherein the end section of the first heat shield plate away from the exhaust port is fixed tightly around the exhaust system member by the band member, and the end section of the second heat shield plate extends forwardly over the band member, the end section of the second heat shield member being fixed to the exhaust system member by an attachment fixture including a bolt, the attachment fixture separating the second heat shield member from the exhaust system member and providing a space between the second heat shield plate and the exhaust system member along an entire length of the second heat shield member through which air passes from front to back during travel.

22. (Previously Presented) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 1, wherein the second heat shield member is separated from the exhaust system member by an attachment fixture including a bolt,

the attachment fixture providing a space along an entire length of the second heat shield plate,

so that during travel, the travel wind passing through the gap at the front end section of the second heat shield plate flows between the second heat shield plate and the exhaust system member along the entire length of the second heat shield plate.

23. (Previously Presented) The heat shield for an internal combustion engine exhaust system of claim 11, wherein the second heat shield member is separated from the exhaust system member by an attachment fixture including a bolt,

the attachment fixture providing a space along an entire length of the second heat shield plate,

so that during travel, the travel wind passing through the gap at the front end section of the second heat shield plate flows between the second heat shield plate and the exhaust system member along the entire of length the second heat shield plate.